

November 6, 1981

Memo to File:

RE: U.S. Steel Corporation
Desert Mound Mine
ACT/021/003
Iron County, Utah

On November 3, 1981, Tom Tetting of the Division met with Roy Bensen, Area Manager for U.S. Steel Corporation's Desert Mound Mine. The purpose of the meeting was to inspect the current site facilities which are abandoned or operational. Both the area around the active mill and shop and the separate area to the southwest on the flank of Iron Mountain were visited. A map of the disturbances submitted by U.S. Steel Corporation closely coincides with the on-site inspection.

The Desert Mound pit and dumps have been abandoned; a protective berm has been placed around the pit but the dumps have not had their edges rounded nor has it been reseeded. This pit is mentioned as the water storage pit in the letter from U.S. Steel Corporation of February 6, 1981, and may be applied for in a modification to the mine plan at a later date. The Ratler Pit and associated dumps have been bermed and fenced and are abandoned but not rounded. The Shortline Pit is the tailings disposal pit mentioned in the letter referenced above and will likewise maintain a questionable future role with U.S. Steel Corporation. Associated dumps have been bermed but not seeded or rounded. Presently a fine area has been worked on and minus 1/4 inch iron ore is being loaded out on two trains a week. This area along with the mill and shop area comprising 91 acres total will be reclaimed at the completion of the operation.

The Mountain Lion Pit will continue to be mined. It contains 10-12 feet of water which is pumped at the rate of 300 gpm, 6 hours a day out along the access road and out into Bureau of Land Management pinyon-juniper land where it soaks into the gravel. It is unappropriated. It has been sampled and a copy of the report will be sent to the Division. The active dump in this area is currently filling in the Yellow Jacket Pit and extending northward onto previously undisturbed land. This area will be reclaimed as it is filled. A third pit in this area is proposed, the Homestake Pit. It will necessitate uncovering the rock which has waste rock dumped on it currently.

There are two test plots on this southern site, both on active waste dumps within 100 feet elevation of each other. They cover approximately 7,000 square feet. One was planted in the spring of 1981 and the other in October, 1981, with a seed mixture specified in the April 8, 1981, letter from U.S. Steel Corporation.

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Two items need to be clarified prior to mine plan approval: one, do the abandoned dumps, indicated as such on the recent U.S. Steel Corporation map, fall into a grandfather position and therefore not necessitate reclamation (recontouring and reseeding) and two, is the removal of the powerlines covered under part A of the bond?...

The answers should be obtained and the mining and reclamation plan presented to the Board for tentative approval as soon as possible.

THOMAS N. TETTING
ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

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